Professor Contends Medical Schools' Standards H.

By LAWRENCE K. ALTMAN

admissions of minorit students licensing board. It is not known with "substandard academic whether the doctor cited in Dr. qualifications," a leading medical educator has charged in a scientific journal.

At the same time, others have debated how many white students with better academic qualifications than the black

The author, Dr. Bernard D. Spokesmen for the military Davis, a professor of bacterial services said that, depending on day.

about academic standards and obligation to protect the public minority group students, an interest in an area in which the issue that has generated private criticism from a growing number of teachers in the nation's late public cannot protect itself," or. Davis said.

In a telephone interview Dr. Davis said that his article was

cently awarded an M.D. even medical school faculty memthough the student had failed bers had signed for purposes five times examinations that are usually prerequisites for the M.D. degree. The school, which and other medical schools have was not identified waived the had share debates over whether requirement in granting the dethe nation's needs are better gree, Dr. Davis said.

Before an M.D. can practice the number of black doctors for Academic standards in the civilian medicine, he must pass the black community, even if ciation of American Medical Academic standards in the civilian medicine, he must pass the standards are lowered, or nation's medical schools have a set of examinations given in whether such needs would be that the organization would be that the organization would be that the organization would be the organization where the organization would be the organization would be the organization would be the organization where the organization would be the organization would be the organization where the organization where we would be the organization where we will be the organization where we will be the organization fallen in recent years ecause dependently of medical schools of the rise in the number of and approved by each state's

physiology at Harvard Medical the circumstances, unlicensed cational opportunities. School in Boston, made his doctors could treat military comments in an article in the personnel and their dependents. In a much-publicized volving Marco DeFundaments issue of The New England Jour-Medical school faculties graduate of the Univ issue of The New England Jour-Medical school faculties nal of Medicine published to should now "ask whether we have been properly balancing Dr. Davis' article is one of our obligation to promote so-the rare public statements about academic standards and obligation to protect the public

Dr. Davis cited an example a condensed version of a more of a young doctor who was redetailed report that six Harvard

was not identified, waived the had sharp debates over whether

better served by a more gradual withhold comment until its offincrease of students with better cials had had a chance to read

dents with better academic black physicians to the point qualifications than the black where they made up 12 percent

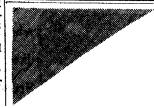
In a much-publicized case involving Marco DeFunis Jr., a zation had no way to force in-graduate of the University of dividual medical schools to ac-Washington who was denied cept a specific number of min-admission to the University of ority group students. Washington who was denied admission to the university's law school, the United States law school, the United States The number of blacks en-Supreme Court refused in 1974 rolled in medical schools has to decide whether professional risen almost five times since schools may give preference to 1968, when there were 783 in admitting members of racial all four classes, to this year, minorities at the expense of when 3,456 are enrolled. white applicants.

A spokesman for the Asso-Dr. Davis's article.

The association at one time supported the goal of training students should be denied edu- of American doctors. But a year ago the association dropped that policy because the organi-

Number Has Increased

However, the number of fresh-



THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1976

ave Dropped Because of Rise in Minority Students

last year to 1,036 this year.

more doctors from minority

Dr. Davis added that medical school faculty members who are in a position to screen for medical competence have a responsibility "not to give a medical diploma to a person who might leave a swath of unnecessary deaths behind him.'

The problem, Dr. Davis said, has taken on new importance because as medical schools have innovated in the areas of admissions, curriculum, grading and criteria for promotion, some faculties, "no longer con-fident of their ability to main-

men medical students has tain adequate minimal stan-norm for passing is necessarily vity it would be considered cridropped from a peak of 1,106 dards," have set up external lowered by any nationwide in-minal. The temptation to award standards by requiring students crease in admission of students medical diplomas on a charitabqualifications."

more doctors from minority groups but that he objected to "widespread public delusion that these programs are going marvelously—they are not, but the public does not know it."

Dr. Davis said that the standards for these examinations have been lowered in recent standards, Dr. Davis said: "If visible and dramatic." the public does not know it."

Dr. Davis said that the standards, Dr. Davis said: "If visible and dramatic." visible and dramatic."

ONE MILLION KIDS
THE FRESH AIR FUND

Dr. Davis said that he sup-ported the goal of training tional Board Examinations. with substandard academic le basis raises the same ques-qualifications." tion, even though the conse quences of fatal error in the